

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of this application as amended. In this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 36 to correct the minor informality pointed out by the Examiner. Claims 1-19, 41 and 43 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added. Hence, claims 20 – 40 and 42 are pending in this application after the filing of this amendment. Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been added by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 20-35 and 37-42 are allowed and that claim 36 would be allowable if minor informalities are corrected. However, because the Examiner did not request that claim 41 be rewritten to include the limitation of the claims from which it depends, the undersigned called the Examiner on December 19, 2006 to discuss the state of the claims with the Examiner. In this interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 41 was inadvertently lumped into the claimed subject matter which the Examiner believed to be allowable. As such, claim 41 was not meant to be included in the claims allowed by the Examiner.

Claim 36 has been amended to correct the minor informality indicated by the Examiner. With this amendment, the Applicant believes claims 20-40 and 42 are all in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-19, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0095542 of Chang et al. (hereafter "Chang"). The Examiner has also rejected claim 8 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chang in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0118006 of Yang (hereafter "Yang").

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Chang and Yang individually and in combination. Moreover, the Applicant believes that several distinctions exist between the claimed subject matter of claims 1-7, 9-19, and 43 and the teachings of Chang and claim 8 and the teachings of Chang in view of Yang.

However, in order to expedite the prompt issuance of this patent application, claims 1-19, 41, and 43 have been cancelled without prejudice. Importantly, the Applicant reserves the right to pursue one or more of the original and/or cancelled claims, as well as claims of similar breadth, in one or more continuation applications.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued forthwith.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. In the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 06-0029.

Request for a Telephone Interview

If the Office believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-447-7739.

Respectfully submitted,

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